

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00756 110826Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSM-03 IO-11 SAJ-01

SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

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R 110806Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6230

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 0756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO, UR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PLANNED GROMYKO VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

1. WORLD NEWS AGENCY (BEIRUT) REPORT DATED FEB. 7 CITES "EASTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BEIRUT" FOR STORY THAT SOVIET VIP WILL SOON BE VISITING "SOME STATES" IN ME TO DISCUSS SITUATION FOLLOWING U.S. VETO. SECOND STORY CLAIMS THAT SOVIET UNION WILL INVITE TO 25TH CPSU CONFERENCE ARAB COMMUNIST AND PROGRESSIVE PARTIES. LATTER CATEGORY INCLUDES EGYPTIAN ASU, SYRIAN BATTH, ALGERIAN FLN AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL FRONT IN SOUTH YEMEN.

2. SYRIAN JOURNALIST WHO BROUGHT WNA REPORT TO OUR ATTENTION ASSERTED THAT SOVIET VIP WAS GROMYKO AND THAT WNA EDITOR KAMAL MATAR, WHO PRESENTLY IN SYRIA, OBTAINED THIS INFO FROM SARG INFORMATION MINISTRY. JOURNALIST SAID THAT WNA, PUBLISHED IN BEIRUT, WAS CONSIDERED CLOSE TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00756 110826Z

3. JOURNALIST ADDED THAT PLO HAD ALSO BEEN INVITED

TO CPSU CONFERENCE. SHE CLAIMED ABU MAYZAR HAD
INFORMED HER PERSONALLY THAT INVITATION CONSIDERED
BY PLO AS RAISING SOVIET-PLO RELATIONSHIP
ANOTHER NOTCH.
MURPHY

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NNN

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